GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
DUMPING OF URBAN WASTE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Developed Countries have dumped their urban waste by dispatching them in containers to certain Indian Ports recently, and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to check such activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (Sh. NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT FOR THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 300 TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 5TH DECEMBER, 2007 REGARDING "DUMPING OF URBAN WASTE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES" BY SH. N. N. KRISHNADAS

(a) & (b) As per information made available by the Kerala State Pollution Control Board and the Chief Commissioner Customs (Preventive), Chennai, incidents have come to light of imports of a banned item namely urban waste, falsely classified as paper waste which is on Open General License. The incidents occurred at Kochi (September-October, 2007) and Tuticorin port (September, 2005). The cargo has been recommended for re-export by a team of officials in the Kochi case and in the Tuticorin case, the Court has permitted the shifting of the containers and re-examination of the contents for deciding on the re-export or proper disposal.

The Ministry on 10.2.2006 and 23.6.2006 communicated the following detailed guidelines in respect of contaminants in waste paper imported:-

1. A maximum of 8% content of recyclable material could be permitted.

2. Recyclable materials may consist upto 8 % by weight of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE)/Acrylic waste/ scrap (except halogenated polymer scrap)

3. The waste paper imported shall not consist of any putrefiable organic matter.

4. The maximum content of 8% of recyclable material shall be verified by custom authorities.

5. The importers would ensure that all recyclable materials are actually recycled, either by them or by other firms in the business of recycling. There should be no disposal of materials other than by recycling. Further that adherence to this condition would be verified by the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committee (PCC) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) Regional Offices.